IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 41, 43, 45 to 48 and 50, and add new Claims 52 and 53 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A color conversion method of converting an image ~~a monochrome~~ signal into a monochrome ~~color space color~~ signal ~~on a color space independent of an apparatus~~, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

setting a tint adjustment value used to adjust the image ~~monochrome~~ signal to a desired tint desired by a user;

acquiring color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a recording medium;

converting the image ~~monochrome~~ signal into a chromaticity signal ~~of the color space~~ using the tint adjustment value set in the setting step and the color reproduction characteristics acquired in the acquiring step; and

forming a tint adjusted monochrome ~~color space color~~ signal from the chromaticity signal converted in the converting step and a brightness signal according to the image ~~monochrome~~ signal, and outputting the tint adjusted monochrome ~~color space color~~ signal,

wherein, in the converting step, the image ~~monochrome~~ signal is converted so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the recording medium, and map a chromaticity point of the tint

adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein, in the acquiring step, the color reproduction characteristics is acquired from a profile of the image output apparatus.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein, in the setting step, the chromaticity point for adjusting the image ~~monochrome~~ signal is set as the tint adjustment value.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the chromaticity point is set in a predetermined range in the setting step.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein, in the converting step, the image ~~monochrome~~ signal is converted into a chromaticity point determined by a rate of change in the neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

46. (Currently Amended) A color conversion apparatus for converting an image ~~a monochrome~~ signal into a monochrome ~~color space color~~ signal ~~on a color space independent of an apparatus~~, comprising:

a setting unit that sets a tint adjustment value used to adjust the image ~~monochrome~~ signal to a desired tint desired by a user;

an acquisition unit that acquires color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a recording medium;

a conversion unit that converts the image ~~monochrome~~ signal into a chromaticity signal of the color space using the tint adjustment value set by [[in]] the setting unit ~~step~~ and the color reproduction characteristics acquired by [[in]] the acquisition unit; and

a forming and outputting unit that forms a tint adjusted monochrome ~~color space color~~ signal from the chromaticity signal converted by [[in]] the conversion unit ~~converting step~~ and a brightness signal according to the image ~~monochrome~~ signal, and outputs the tint adjusted monochrome ~~color space color~~ signal,

wherein the conversion ~~converting~~ unit converts the image ~~monochrome~~ signal so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the recording medium, and map a chromaticity point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the acquisition ~~acquiring~~ unit acquires the color reproduction characteristics from a profile of the image output apparatus.

48. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the setting unit sets the chromaticity point for adjusting the image ~~monochrome~~ signal as the tint adjustment value.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the chromaticity point is set in a predetermined range by the setting unit.

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the image ~~monochrome~~ signal is converted into a chromaticity point determined by a rate of change in the neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

51. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium, storing, in executable form, a computer program for causing a computer to execute the color conversion method according to claim 41.

52. (New) A color conversion method of converting an image signal into a monochrome image signal, comprising:

setting a tint adjustment value used to adjust the image signal to a tinted monochrome image signal; and

converting the image signal into the tinted monochrome image signal using the tint adjustment value set in the setting step and color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus,

wherein, in the converting step, the image signal is converted so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus, and map a chromaticity point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color, and

wherein, a setting range for the tint adjust value is limited on a color space for preventing from excessive tincture.

53. (New) A color conversion apparatus for converting an image signal into a monochrome image signal, comprising:

a setting unit that sets a tint adjustment value used to adjust the image signal to a tinted monochrome image signal; and

a conversion unit that converts the image signal into the tinted monochrome image signal using the tint adjustment value set by the setting unit and color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus,

wherein the conversion unit converts the image signal so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus, and map a chromaticity point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color, and

wherein, a setting range for the tint adjust value is limited on a color space for preventing from excessive tincture.